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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign

CROPS AND MARKETS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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NORWAY'S CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION DOWN LAST YEAR

Norwegian consumption of factory-made cigarettes in 1958 of 1,394 million pieces was slightly below the record 1,441 million smoked in 1957. According to trade estimates, filter-tipped brands accounted for about 15 percent of total sales.

Smoking tobacco showed a considerable gain in 1958, with sales amounting to about 6.3 million pounds, compared to a little more than 6.0 million in 1957. About 50 percent of the smoking tobacco is used in "roll-your-own" cigarettes.

Consumption of cigars and chewing tobacco was up slightly. Cigar sales totaled 25 million pieces, against 24 million in 1957; chewing tobacco sales rose from 454,000 pounds in 1957 to 481,000 pounds in 1958. Norwegian smokers used less snuff last year than they did in 1957.

PORUGUESE OUTPUT OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS UP

Output of tobacco products in Portugal in the first 10 months of 1958 totaled 10.3 million pounds, up about 9 percent from the comparable period of 1957. Cigarettes showed the sharpest gain, from 8.1 to 8.9 million pounds, and represented 86 percent of total product output last year. Production of smoking tobacco was slightly larger in 1958 than a year earlier. Other products totaled about 22,000 pounds in January-October for both 1957 and 1958.

U. S. SHARE IN WORLD TOBACCO TRADE DROPS FURTHER IN 1958

World exports of unmanufactured tobacco (excluding those from Communist countries) totaled 1,478 million pounds in 1958, compared to the record 1,483 million in 1957. The United States continued as the world's most important tobacco exporter last year, but its share of world exports declined to 32.6 percent from 33.8 percent in 1957.

Light cigarette tobaccos continued to dominate the world trade picture in tobacco last year. Flue-cured exports increased to about 693 from 683 million pounds in 1957. The U. S. share in world flue-cured exports was 58 percent in 1958, compared to 61 percent in 1957. World exports of oriental dropped to about 340 million pounds in 1958 from 390 million in 1957, mainly due to declines in shipments from Turkey and Greece. Burley exports rose a little from 1957. Total free world exports of light cigarette tobaccos, including flue-cured, Burley, other light air-cured and oriental, represented about 77 percent of total tobacco exports.

Among major tobacco exporters, the following shipped less tobacco in 1958 than in 1957: the United States, Greece, Turkey, Canada, and the Dominican Republic. Exports from Cuba, Brazil, Italy, Yugoslavia, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines were larger last year than in 1957.

COLOMBIAN 1958 TOBACCO EXPORTS DROP

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco from Colombia in 1958, at 10 million pounds were 21 percent below those of 1957. West Germany continued as the principal market for Colombian leaf last year, taking 5.4 million pounds, more than half the total. Other leading markets were France, the Netherlands, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. Leaf tobacco exports from Colombia are mostly dark air-cured varieties for use in cigars and dark cigarettes.

The drop in exports last year is attributed mainly to shipping delays by exporters in the anticipation of passage of a decree permitting the exchange of export certificates on a free market basis, rather than at an officially controlled rate. The decree was passed in January, and became effective February 1, 1959. Consequently, exports in recent months have greatly exceeded those for the comparable period a year ago.

Average export prices per pound, for leaf exports to major destinations in 1958, in terms of U. S. equivalents were: West Germany, 21 cents; France, 17 cents; Netherlands, 20 cents; and Algeria, 17 cents.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Colombia, exports by country of destination, 1956-58

| Country of destination | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 <u>1/</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | : 1,000 pounds | : 1,000 pounds | : 1,000 pounds |
| Germany, West..... | 7,129 | 8,477 | 5,355 |
| France..... | 2,004 | 1,296 | 1,166 |
| Netherlands..... | 493 | 589 | 792 |
| Belgium-Luxembourg..... | 110 | 326 | 194 |
| Algeria..... | 719 | 1,197 | 762 |
| Tunisia..... | --- | 176 | 518 |
| Morocco..... | 593 | 388 | 386 |
| French West Africa..... | --- | 79 | 348 |
| Others..... | 573 | 135 | 440 |
| Total..... | 11,621 | 12,663 | 9,961 |

1/ Preliminary.

Source: Anuario de Comercio Exterior and National Statistics office.

CANADIAN LARD AND TALLOW PRODUCTION INCREASES

Canadian production of lard during January-March 1959 was 38.3 million pounds, compared to 27.4 million pounds in the same period of 1958, an increase of 40 percent. The 11-million-pound increase in production resulted from a 46-percent increase in hog slaughter.

In the first 3 months of 1959 inedible tallow production was up by 11 percent from 30.5 to 34.0 million pounds. In this same period edible tallow production dropped from 9.7 to 8.8 million pounds. Although cattle slaughter in Canada dropped 13 percent during January-March 1959, compared to the same period in 1958, increased production by rendering plants resulted in the 2.5 million pound greater output of tallow.

COLOMBIA REMOVES IMPORT BAN ON BREEDING ANIMALS

In an effort to stimulate its livestock industry, Columbia recently removed its import ban on most classes of breeding stock. This action should increase the U. S. export of breeding animals to Colombia.

Breeding animals now permitted entry are pedigreed horses and mares, asses, bulls and bull calves, hogs, and all types of goats and sheep. However, the ban on female breeding cattle is still in effect. All imports require the prior approval of the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the pedigree.

RAISE IN FREIGHT RATES PLANNED FOR NEW ZEALAND MEAT SHIPMENTS

Several New Zealand shipping companies plan to increase freight rates on meat shipments to the West coast of North America as of August 1, 1959. Rates for East coast shipments will remain unchanged.

The planned raises are: beef in cartons, from 3-1/4 to 3-3/4 cents per pound gross weight; beef quarters, from 4 to 4-1/4 cents; and lamb carcasses, from 5 to 5-1/4 cents.

COLOMBIA HALTS EXPORTS OF HIDES AND LEATHER

The Ministry of Development of Colombia has prohibited the export of hides and crude leathers. This action was taken at the request of the shoe industry, based on the view that these exports were harmful to the country's domestic economy.

PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS ARE REPORTED IN DETAIL

A detailed tabulation of the brief summary of the Philippine copra and coconut oil exports for January-May reported in Foreign Crops and Markets, June 15, 1959, follows:

COPRA: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination,
May and January-May 1958 and 1959

| Country of destination | May | | January-May | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | 1958 1/ | 1959 1/ | 1958 1/ | 1959 1/ |
| | Long tons | Long tons | Long tons | Long tons |
| North America: | | | | |
| United States..... | 27,853 | 25,050 | 107,266 | 112,963 |
| Pacific Coast..... | (27,853) | (25,050) | (107,266) | (112,963) |
| Canada..... | --- | --- | 1,800 | --- |
| Total..... | 27,853 | 25,050 | 109,066 | 112,963 |
| South America: | | | | |
| Colombia..... | 1,100 | --- | 20,753 | --- |
| Venezuela..... | --- | --- | 3,000 | 7,872 |
| Total..... | 1,100 | --- | 23,753 | 7,872 |
| Europe: | | | | |
| Belgium..... | 1,000 | --- | 5,000 | --- |
| Denmark..... | 500 | 990 | 5,300 | 1,990 |
| France..... | --- | --- | 4,310 | --- |
| Germany, West..... | 5,750 | 3,000 | 25,965 | 15,830 |
| Italy..... | --- | --- | 2,900 | --- |
| Netherlands..... | 15,250 | 9,200 | 76,043 | 42,314 |
| Norway..... | --- | --- | 500 | 500 |
| Spain..... | --- | --- | --- | 3,500 |
| Sweden..... | 7,000 | 500 | 10,500 | 1,000 |
| Optional discharge 2/ | --- | --- | 26,577 | 379 |
| Total..... | 29,500 | 13,690 | 157,095 | 65,513 |
| Asia: | | | | |
| Israel..... | --- | --- | 3,020 | --- |
| Lebanon..... | 500 | --- | 3,200 | --- |
| Syria..... | --- | --- | --- | 1,500 |
| Total..... | 500 | --- | 6,220 | 1,500 |
| Grand total..... | 58,953 | 38,740 | 296,134 | 187,848 |

1/ Preliminary. 2/ West Germany, Netherlands, or Belgium.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

COCONUT OIL: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination,
May and January-May 1958 and 1959

| Country of destination | May | | January-May | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | 1958 1/ | 1959 1/ | 1958 1/ | 1959 1/ |
| | Long tons | Long tons | Long tons | Long tons |
| North America: | | | | |
| United States..... | 7,645 | 3,627 | 31,069 | 19,776 |
| Atlantic Coast..... | (7,645) | (3,192) | (31,069) | (17,370) |
| Pacific Coast..... | (--- | (435) | (--- | (2,406) |
| Cuba..... | --- | --- | 350 | --- |
| Total..... | 7,645 | 3,627 | 31,419 | 19,776 |
| Europe: | | | | |
| Netherlands..... | 1,090 | 1,169 | 4,814 | 5,314 |
| Total..... | 1,090 | 1,169 | 4,814 | 5,314 |
| Grand total..... | 8,735 | 4,796 | 36,233 | 25,090 |

1/ Preliminary.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

SOVIET SPRING WHEAT ACREAGE REDUCED

An early but dry spring in many regions and a decrease of about 5 percent in the spring wheat acreage seeded this year characterized the spring sowing campaign in the Soviet Union. Last year the spring was late, but moisture conditions were much more favorable.

Sowing of spring crops in the Soviet Union was nearly complete by June 1, with more than 300 million acres sown. This acreage was approximately 8 million acres above the area seeded on the same date a year ago, when the spring was late. However, the important spring wheat area decreased for a second successive year, though the 1959 goal was slightly exceeded by June 1. The spring wheat acreage reached a peak in 1957 with 125 million acres planted; it declined to 118 million acres in 1958 and to 112.5 million acres this year. Yet the 1959 spring wheat acreage is still 37 million acres above that of 1953, which was the year before the large expansion began in the "new lands" regions. The latter are predominantly in the spring wheat belt. The total wheat area (spring and winter) for the 1958 harvest was 165 million acres. The area sown to wheat in the fall of 1958 for the 1959 harvest was not disclosed.

The reason for the reduction of the 1959 spring wheat acreage is not known. Among possible factors responsible for the lower wheat goal were the need to withdraw some acreage in the subhumid and semiarid regions for summer fallow in order to conserve moisture and control weeds, a possible shift to feed crops, and an abnormally heavy load of spring plowing because weather conditions interfered with plowing last fall.

An area of 48.6 million acres was planted to corn by June 1 and the annual goal was nearly reached. While there has been a very considerable expansion of the area under this crop in recent years, it should be noted that most of the corn in the Soviet Union, unlike the United States, is grown for silage or green fodder. In 1958, out of a total area of 48.7 million acres planted to corn, only 10.9 million acres (22 percent) was harvested for dry grain.

An area of nearly 5.2 million acres was planted to cotton, slightly less than in 1958. Cotton in the Soviet Union is grown under irrigation in Soviet Central Asia and Transcaucasia. A large increase was shown in sugar beet acreage, which was reported at 7.3 million acres this year compared to 6.2 million in 1958.

DENMARK CLOSES MEAT DEALS WITH U.S.S.R. AND FRANCE

Under a recent agreement, Denmark is to export 22,400,000 pounds of meat to the Soviet Union between June 1, 1959, and May 31, 1961.

Denmark's export quota for canned meat exports to France in calendar 1959 was recently raised from \$43,000 to \$65,000. This quota will also apply in 1960, unless changed by mutual consent.

1959 FLAX PRODUCTION NIL IN NORTHERN IRELAND

For the first time in recorded history no fiber flax will be produced in Northern Ireland in 1959. The largest recorded area in fiber flax was 207,000 acres in 1864, the second largest 125,000 acres in 1944. Total area decreased steadily from the 1944 figure to less than 1,000 acres in 1958. Flax production has ceased also in other parts of the United Kingdom.

Reasons for the decline in flax growing include the following: (1) increasing competition from man-made fibers, (2) shrinking markets for linen goods as some foreign countries try to build up their own textile industries or are faced with currency problems, (3) price competition from lower-wage textile countries, and (4) the ending of government subsidies to growers in Northern Ireland.

The 1958 flax crop furnished only about 1 percent of the total needed for Irish linen mills. Fiber is imported principally from Belgium, France, and the Netherlands, but production has been decreasing in these countries since 1955. The Soviet Union is emerging as an important source of flax fiber.

Manufacture of flax goods in Ireland and Great Britain is a large industry producing a great variety of products including yarns, threads, damask and other fabrics, handkerchiefs, canvas, and hose pipes. Shrinking markets are evidenced, however, by a decline in exports to \$45.1 million in 1958 compared to \$53.3 million in 1957 and \$54.3 million in 1956. Exports of fabrics to the United States fell during these years from \$4.6 million to \$2.6 million.

JAMAICA'S COCOA BUTTER EXPORTS DROP

Jamaica's exports of cocoa butter dropped from 2,265,710 in 1957 to 1,495,656 pounds in 1958. The larger part of Jamaica's exports are to Canada, with smaller quantities going to the United Kingdom and Holland.

INCREASED 1959 PIG SLAUGHTER IS FORECAST IN SWEDEN

Mr. Gunnar Lund, director of the Swedish Farmers' Meat Marketing Association, has stated that Sweden's pork production in 1959 will show a surplus of 99 million pounds. This production estimate, for the period March 1959 to February 1960, is based on an increase in the numbers of sows serviced as of March 31, 1959.

Sweden's export surplus last year, 79 million pounds, set a record.

INDIA MOVES TO CHECK RISING SUGAR PRICES

The Deputy Food Minister announced in the Indian Parliament on May 9 that wholesale sugar dealers would soon be licensed throughout India, beginning in Uttar Pradesh. This is to counter the sudden increase in sugar prices which soared 10 to 20 percent in late April and early May.

While the Government of India considers the price rise the result of a scare created by "unscrupulous" traders, independent observers point to the reduced 1958-59 production of centrifugal sugar and the rising domestic consumption of sugar. The difficult supply and demand situation raises some doubt as to the ability of the country to meet its export target of 100,000 long tons out of the current year's production. No large export sales have been made thus far during this crop year.

URUGUAY SHORT OF ANIMAL FATS

Some Uruguayan soap manufactures are interested in importing tallow from the United States. Due to reduced cattle slaughter during the first part of 1959, a shortage of tallow has developed in Uruguay, and some soap factories have had to use vegetable oils. Due to a shortage of sunflower seed oil, plants have reportedly had to convert to linseed oil.

Lard is also in short supply in Uruguay. Due to increasing prices for lard, many consumers are shifting to vegetable oils.

WOOL PROMOTION FEATURED AT SYDNEY SHEEP SHOW

Wool promotion was a striking feature of this year's Sydney sheep show which began May 2. Fashion parades emphasized U. S. and European styling.

Some of the newer research developments to help wool combat competition from synthetics were also shown. Under the sponsorship of the Australian Wool Bureau, a stain-repellent product was demonstrated. A durable creasing process and a moth-proofing process using dieldrin were also demonstrated.

POLES INCREASE EGG EXPORTS

According to a Polish Press Agency dispatch of May 23, Poland's egg exports are expected to total over 70 million dozen in 1959, compared to 38 million in 1958. Exports in 1959 through May 22 were reported to have been slightly greater than the 1958 total. Poland hopes its agricultural exports will help offset the loss of foreign exchange resulting from lowered prices for Polish coal in Western European markets.

HONG KONG REPORTS GOOD MARKET FOR U.S. POULTRY AND EGGS

According to recent reports from the Crown Colony of Hong Kong, there is a marketing possibility for U.S. poultry and eggs that is likely to exist through 1959.

Due to curtailment of supplies from Mainland China, Hong Kong is experiencing a marked shortage of poultry meat, hatching eggs and day-old chicks. Prices have risen substantially in the first quarter of 1959, with hatching eggs selling at about \$3.50 per dozen and day old chicks at 35 cents each. Retail prices for chicken have averaged from 79 to 92 cents per pound (live weight), and shell eggs are selling at 70 to 88 cents per dozen.

Day-old chicks have been imported from Japan, Singapore and Thailand to ease the shortage, but they reportedly do not find favor with local poultry keepers. A number of producers have set up their own breeding flocks to help meet local demand.

In the past, Mainland China has made heavy shipments in sharp competition with outside purchases of these items. This year, however, following the reported organization of producers into communes, back-yard production of poultry and eggs has been interrupted. Plans call for concentration on swine production. These factors will reportedly cause a sharp reduction in poultry and egg shipments to Hong Kong for the balance of 1959.

GUATEMALA'S NEW BUTTER-POWDER PLANT TO START OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER

The Asuncion Mita milk plant, jointly sponsored by the FAO and Guatemala is scheduled to begin operation in September. Plans call for the processing of about 45,000 pounds of milk daily in the manufacture of butter and nonfat dry milk. Although local milk production has increased sharply from about 7,000 pounds daily in 1955 to about 27,000 pounds, the plant will need milk from a wide area. The maximum capacity of the plant is 68,000 pounds daily.

The plant is located in the southeastern part of the country where there are 2 marked seasons of production. Rainfall, averaging from 35 to 40 inches a year, falls largely from June to October. Use of wide-spread irrigation is considered necessary to maintain year-round pastures.

A dairy cooperative is planned for the area and a practical course in dairying for farmers it to be offered. Even if these objectives are met, dairy cattle numbers will have to be increased substantially. Plans to increase dairy cows may include a program of artificial insemination and the importation of purebred cattle.

WORLD WHEAT TRADE IN 1958-59 EXPECTED TO EXCEED LAST YEAR

World wheat trade in 1958-59 is expected to reach 1,220 million bushels, a 2.5 percent increase over 1957-58 trade of 1,190 million bushels. While 1958-59 trade is 26 percent above the 5-year average 1951-55 (968 million), it is about 9 percent short of the record in 1956-57 (1,328 million). The world trade in wheat has tended upward as the result of U.S. Government programs and a failure of local production in a number of countries to keep pace with expanding populations and per capita demands for wheat.

United States wheat exports are indicated at 440 to 450 million bushels in 1958-59, an increase of 48 million or 12 percent over 1957-58 (402 million). This year's total nearly equals the average of the last 3 years, which was the highest in history, and approximates 40 percent of average U.S. production. The principal reasons for the increase were greater needs for feed and good quality milling wheat in Western Europe and larger exports to Asia. Shipments to India are estimated at 120 million bushels compared to 77 million in 1957-58. However, exports to Japan have dropped from 52 million in 1957-58 to approximately 32 million this year.

U.S.S.R. exports are again reaching the high volume attained during the early 1900's. Exports for 1958-59 may reach about 160 million bushels, a volume exceeded only by the United States and Canada. Despite these large shipments, Soviet exports of wheat to Western markets before 1958-59 showed relatively little increase. A primary reason for this important development is that Eastern Europe, formerly a surplus area, has found it necessary in recent years to import increasingly large quantities, primarily from the Soviet Union. During the current year, Soviet exports to Western markets will reach around 40 million bushels, a post-World War II record.

Canada's exports for 1958-59 are expected to decrease slightly from 316 million bushels in 1957-58. Increases in exports are indicated from Australia and Argentina. France is expected to undergo a large relative decline in wheat exports.

UNITED KINGDOM LIBERALIZES IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON CHEESE, SHELL EGGS, AND EGG PRODUCTS

The United Kingdom has announced that, effective June 8, import controls were removed from imports of cheese, shell eggs, and egg products from the dollar area.

While present U.S. prices are not favorable to sales of fresh eggs and cheese, indications are that there are definite sales possibilities for U.S. frozen or dried egg whites in this market because of present low prices.

PORUGAL'S COTTON CONSUMPTION AND IMPORTS RISE SLIGHTLY

Cotton consumption of 138,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in Portugal during August-March 1958-59 represented an increase of 4 percent from the 133,000 bales used in the same months a year earlier. The higher consumption is attributed partly to stronger consumer purchasing power resulting from recent government wage increases, and partly to the population increase.

Many Portuguese mills continue to face operational difficulties because of insufficient operating capital, excess capacity, and strong competition on both domestic and export markets. Mills with more modern equipment and a desire to produce quality goods are in a better competitive position and are operating with less difficulty.

Cotton imports into Portugal during August-March of this season were 172,000 bales, up 3 percent from 167,000 bales in the corresponding 1957-58 period. The Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Angola supplied 81 percent of the August-March imports, compared to 86 percent a year earlier.

Principal sources of the August-March 1958-59 imports, with comparable 1957-58 figures in parentheses, were: Mozambique 117,000 bales (122,000); Angola 22,000 (22,000); Nigeria 10,000 (0); United States 10,000 (20,000); Greece 3,000 (0); and the Belgian Congo 3,000 (0).

Cotton stocks on March 31, 1959, were estimated at 86,000 bales, down 3 percent from a year earlier but 65 percent above beginning stocks of 52,000 bales on August 1, 1958.

Total 1958-59 cotton production in the Portuguese colonies is estimated at 210,000 bales. This is an increase of 23 percent from 1957-58 when production dropped to 170,000 bales due to unfavorable weather in Mozambique, where over 80 percent of the colonial cotton is grown.

U. S. WHEAT IMPORT QUOTAS FILLED

Quotas on Canadian wheat and wheat flour entering the United States were filled at the opening moment of the quota year, according to an announcement of the U. S. Bureau of Customs on June 5. Canada's quota of 795,000 bushels of wheat and 3,815,000 pounds of flour were contracted for at the opening of the new quota year, 12 noon, e.s.t., May 29, 1959.

A Presidential proclamation on May 28, 1941, set an overall quota of 800,000 bushels of wheat and 4,000,000 pounds of flour or other wheat products which may be imported for consumption in the United States. These quantities have remained as total quotas, but there have been certain exceptions provided for in subsequent modifications of the original order.

INDIA INCREASES
CASHEW EXPORTS

Exports of Indian cashews reached a record 1-3/4 million cases during 1958, approximately 15 percent more than the 1.5 million-case volume of the preceding season.

In 1958 the United States was again the leading customer for cashew kernels, taking 1,225 thousand cases, or 70 percent of all exports. Though the actual number of cases was less, U.S. kernel purchases in 1957 amounted to 74 percent of India's cashew nut exports.

Soviet Union purchases of Indian cashews increased to 225 thousand cases in 1958, constituting 13 percent of all exports. Purchases by the Soviet Union in 1957, however, were less than 100 thousand cases.

The value of cashew kernel exports by India increased from \$30.9 million in 1957 to nearly \$32.5 million in 1958.

CASHEWS, SHELLLED: India, exports by destination, including value expressed in dollars, annual 1957 and 1958.

(Cases of 50 pounds net)

| Destination | Thousands of Cases | | Thousands U.S. Dollars | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|------------------------|--------|
| | 1957 | 1958 | 1957 | 1958 |
| Australia..... | 33 | 28 | 721 | 594 |
| Canada..... | 60 | 57 | 1,286 | 1,166 |
| Germany, West..... | 23 | 26 | 450 | 463 |
| United Kingdom..... | 123 | 120 | 2,424 | 1,980 |
| United States..... | 1,135 | 1,225 | 23,011 | 22,979 |
| U.S.S.R. | 93 | 225 | 1,957 | 4,212 |
| Others..... | 57 | 68 | 1,085 | 1,093 |
| Total..... | 1,524 | 1,749 | 30,934 | 32,487 |

CUBAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE EXPORTS IN MAY REPORTED

Fresh orange shipments during May from Cuba to the United States amounted to 17.9 million pounds, compared to 16.6 million pounds in May of 1958.

Mango exports to the United States amounted to 1.2 million pounds, compared to only 89,000 pounds in May of last year. Favorable weather conditions resulted in an abundant crop this year.

Lime shipments declined, 109,000 pounds this May compared to 116,000 pounds last year.

The tomato season ended in May with shipments of only 66,000 pounds compared to 732,000 pounds last year. Total exports to the United States for this season amounted to 20.6 million pounds compared to 36.9 million last year.

NICARAGUA'S 1959 COTTONSEED PRODUCTION AND
EXPORTS EXPECTED TO APPROXIMATE 1958 RECORD

Nicaragua's cottonseed production in calendar 1959 from the 1958-59 cotton crop is expected to approximate the 1958 record, and cottonseed exports probably will about equal those of last year.

COTTONSEED: Nicaragua, supply and distribution,
calendar years 1957, 1958 and forecast 1959

| | 1957 | 1958 1/ | Forecast 1959 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| | Short tons | Short tons | Short tons |
| Supply: | | | |
| Opening stocks, Jan. 1..... | --- | --- | --- |
| Production 2/..... | 87,018 | 98,420 | 96,750 |
| Imports 3/..... | 237 | 90 | 50 |
| Total supply..... | 87,255 | 98,510 | 96,800 |
| Distribution: | | | |
| Exports 3/..... | 73,988 | 77,110 | 75,000 |
| Crushed 2/..... | 12,017 | 20,150 | 20,550 |
| Seed and waste..... | 1,250 | 1,250 | 1,250 |
| Ending stocks, Dec. 31..... | --- | --- | --- |
| Total distribution..... | 87,255 | 98,510 | 96,800 |

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Unofficial estimates. 3/ Official customs data.

The 3 oilseed mills in Nicaragua, which have a total crushing capacity of about 25,500 tons per year, are now running at about 85 percent of capacity because of export commitments for cottonseed. About 75 percent of the cottonseed oil production goes into cooking oil and 25 percent into vegetable shortening.

COTTONSEED OIL: Nicaragua, supply and distribution
calendar years 1957, 1958 and forecast 1959 1/

| | 1957 | 1958 2/ | Forecast 1959 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| | Short tons | Short tons | Short tons |
| Supply: | | | |
| Opening stocks, Jan. 1..... | --- | --- | --- |
| Production..... | 1,983 | 3,325 | 3,390 |
| Imports..... | 1,052 | 176 | --- |
| Total supply..... | 3,035 | 3,501 | 3,390 |
| Distribution: | | | |
| Domestic use..... | 3,034 | 3,501 | 3,390 |
| Exports..... | 1 | --- | --- |
| Ending stocks, Dec. 31..... | --- | --- | --- |
| Total distribution..... | 3,035 | 3,501 | 3,390 |

1/ Unofficial estimates. 2/ Preliminary.

Major markets for Nicaragua's cottonseed in the last 2 years were Japan and Germany. As of early June the export price was \$58 per metric ton (\$53 per short ton) f.a.s. or \$60 (\$54) f.o.b.

About 34,500 acres were planted to sesame in 1958 compared to 39,700 acres in 1957. Production was probably somewhat less than the 7,600 tons harvested the previous year. None of the crop is crushed in Nicaragua. The entire crop, with the exception of the small quantity used for seed, is exported. Of the 7,009 tons exported in 1958, 4,453 tons went to the United States and 2,354 to Japan. The f.o.b. export price in early June was 18 U.S. cents per pound unhulled.

Nicaragua has about 1,400 acres of African oil palms. Annual production of pericarp oil is about 500 to 700 tons, the bulk of which is used domestically for soap-making.

BELGIUM IMPORTS AND CONSUMES LESS COTTON

Cotton imports into Belgium during August-February 1958-59 amounted to 231,000 bales (500 pounds gross), a decline of 15 percent from imports of 272,000 bales in the corresponding months of 1957-58.

Most of the drop was in imports from the United States as mills shifted their purchases to lower-priced cotton from other countries. Imports increased from all other major suppliers except Belgian Congo.

Principal sources of the August-February 1958-59 imports, with comparable 1957-58 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 56,000 bales (41,000); United States 50,000 (150,000); Belgian Congo 43,000 (52,000); Peru 15,000 (13,000); Nigeria 13,000 (0); Turkey 9,000 (0); Argentina 7,000 (1,000); U.S.S.R. 6,000 (3,000); and Egypt 5,000 (4,000).

Cotton consumption during August-March of this season was 250,000 bales, 9 percent below the 274,000 bales used in the same period a year earlier. The use of United States cotton dropped to 77,000 bales or 31 percent of total consumption, in contrast to 150,000 bales or 55 percent of the total in August-March 1957-58. Output of cotton yarn and textiles declined about 16 percent during August-December 1958 compared to the corresponding months of 1957.

The textile situation in Belgium has shown signs of improvement recently due to a strengthening in demand for cotton goods. However, stocks of cotton textiles are still relatively large in both the spinning and weaving segments of the industry, and until these stocks are worked off the rate of consumption probably will not pick up appreciably.

Cotton stocks on March 1, 1959, are estimated at 144,000 bales, compared with beginning stocks of 131,000 bales on August 1, 1958. United States cotton constituted about 15 percent of the March 1 stocks.

SUDAN'S 1959 OILSEED EXPORTS
EXPECTED TO APPROACH RECORD

Sudanese oilseed exports (cottonseed, sesame seed and peanuts) in 1959 are expected to be twice those of 1958 but slightly below the record exports of 1957. The forecast for large exports this year is based on availabilities from the 1958 oilseed crops. The increase reflects a recovery in cottonseed exports to near the 1957 level.

Exports in 1958 were less than one-half the quantity shipped in 1957, down as a result of a sharply reduced oilseed output in 1957. Production of all three major oilseeds declined in 1957, the most notable reduction being a 65 percent drop in cottonseed output.

Preliminary estimates for 1959 oilseed production indicate export availabilities of oilseeds in 1960 will again be sizable.

Minor quantities of vegetable oils, mainly cottonseed oil, are exported annually, and exports in 1959 may be near the 1957 level.

Sudan's oilseed crushing industry is expanding slowly and the output of oilseed cakes and meals is rising accordingly. Production of oilcake and meal from all oilseeds in 1959 is estimated at 110,000 short tons, up one-third from the reduced output of 1958. This reflects the increased availability of cottonseed for crushing this year. Most of the outturn is exported each year. Of the 73,000 tons of oilcake produced in 1958, over 62,000 tons were exported, and a similar share of the 1959 outturn probably will be sent abroad.

OILSEEDS: Sudan, production by kind, annual 1956-58, forecast 1959

| Oilseed | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 1/ | 1959 2/ |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | : 1,000 : short tons |
| Cottonseed 3/..... | 300 | 106 | 284 | 220 |
| Sesame seed..... | 169 | 144 | 153 | 154 |
| Peanuts (unshelled)..... | 161 | 141 | 116 | 143 |
| Total 4/..... | 630 | 391 | 553 | 517 |

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Forecast. 3/ Excludes cottonseed produced for seed. 4/ Excludes minor quantities of other oilseeds produced in the Sudan.

Compiled from official and other sources.

OILSEEDS, OILS, AND OILCAKES AND MEALS: Sudan, exports by commodity,
annual 1957-58 and forecast 1959

| Commodity | 1957 | 1958 1/ | 1959 2/ |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Short tons | Short tons | Short tons |
| Oilseeds: | | | |
| Peanuts (unshelled)..... | 6,915 | 13,700 | { 93,000 |
| Peanuts (shelled)..... | 73,920 | 56,741 | |
| Cottonseed..... | 205,957 | 58,856 | 195,000 |
| Sesame seed..... | 45,189 | 32,936 | 38,600 |
| Total 3/..... | 331,981 | 162,233 | 326,600 |
| Oils: | | | |
| Cottonseed..... | 6,340 | 1,609 | 4/ |
| Sesame seed..... | 246 | 303 | 4/ |
| Peanut..... | 0 | 9 | 4/ |
| Total..... | 6,586 | 1,921 | 4/ |
| Oilcake and meal: | | | |
| Cottonseed..... | 40,325 | 26,876 | 5/ |
| Sesame seed..... | 16,902 | 15,765 | 5/ |
| Other..... | 2,694 | 19,576 | 5/ |
| Total..... | 59,921 | 62,217 | 5/ |

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Forecast, based on supplies from 1958 production.

3/ Excludes negligible quantities of other oilseeds. 4/ Not available.

5/ Not available, but production of all oilcake and meal in 1959 is estimated at 110,000 short tons and at least 85 percent probably will be exported.

Compiled from official and other sources.

CANADA'S SPRING GRAIN SEEDING
LAGS BEHIND PAST 2 YEARS

An estimated 88 percent of Canada's expected spring grain acreage had been seeded by May 31. This is less progress than had been made by the same date in the past 2 years, when 94 percent of the spring seeding had been completed. Progress of spring sowing was delayed considerably by cool unsettled weather during the first half of May in the Prairie Provinces.

The weather in the last half of May was generally favorable for seeding, except in parts of Manitoba where excessive moisture nearly brought it to a halt. Soil drifting was a problem in parts of the Prairie Provinces, but reports indicate that damage was not generally severe.

Winter kill of winter wheat and rye was heavy compared to that of a year ago. In Ontario, the only Province reporting winter wheat, 38 percent of the area seeded last fall was winterkilled compared to only 5 percent the previous year. Winter kill of rye is estimated at 12 percent, compared to 5 percent a year earlier. Condition of winter wheat on May 31 was largely below average.

CANADIAN SUNFLOWER SEED PRICES TO BE SUPPORTED THIS YEAR

On May 29 the Canadian Government announced a support price for 1959 sunflower seed of 4 cents per pound (4.13 U.S. cents) to producers in Manitoba. This price is based on Canada No. 1 grade seed. The support price is 87 percent of the most recent 10 year average price of 4.6 cents (4.75 U.S. cents). Soybean prices in Ontario also are supported this year at 87 percent of the 10 year average (see Foreign Crops and Markets, June 1, 1959).

The 10 year average price is believed to include prices received for sunflower seed for crushing and the large seed varieties. The latter, known as Mennonite, is used for confectionary purposes, and normally sells from 5 to 6 cents per pound (5.17 to 6.20 U.S. cents). Smaller crushing seed has been selling for around 4 cents in recent years.

Canadian sunflower is produced mainly in Manitoba and is an important secondary cash crop to producers. Present plantings are estimated at 45,000 acres, slightly below the 48,700 acres of last year. Farmers expressed considerable interest in expanding sunflower in Alberta earlier this year, but the acreage planted is not known. About 3,700 acres were planted there in 1958.

PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT CLARIFIES COTTONSEED OIL PRICE

The Government of Pakistan has clarified the confusion regarding the price of cottonseed oil fixed in November 1958 under the Martial Law Regulations.

According to the new ruling the general price of cottonseed oil, namely 76 rupees per maund (19.4 cents per pound) exclusive of sales tax, includes the quality known by the local trade as "washed cottonseed oil". This term means alkali refined and water washed.

The government has now explained that the above price was never meant to be applicable to refined, deodorized cottonseed oil which is almost the same as vegetable ghee except that the former has not been hardened but is alkali refined, water washed, bleached and deodorized as adopted by Pakistan standard specifications for cottonseed oil.

The maximum price of refined, deodorized cottonseed oil shall not exceed by more than 10 rupees per maund (2.55 cents per pound), the ruling price, or the price which has been fixed by the government. The maximum price thus would not exceed 86 rupees per maund (21.95 cents per pound).

INDIA HARVESTS LARGER SESAME SEED CROP

Indian sesame seed production in 1958-59 was 552,160 short tons, according to the final official estimate. The 1957-58 crop totaled 396,480 tons. Increased acreage and higher yields account for the increased output.

In 1958-59, 5.33 million acres were planted to sesame seed, up 3.1 percent from the previous year.

LATE NEWS ITEM

Cardboard egg cartons have been added to List I of the Import Tariff Schedule, the Quito press reports. List I has more lenient foreign exchange deposit requirements than List II and its inclusion on this list reflects an increase in demand for poultry products in Ecuador. The continuing expansion of production facilities in Ecuador, however, is expected to bring about a lowering of the present high prices for eggs. As of the close of May, eggs were selling for the equivalent of about 85 cents per dozen at retail.

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